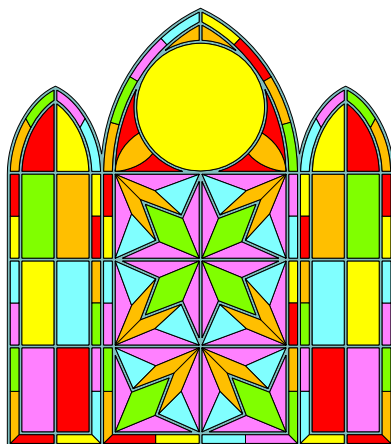




RINITY Times



Trinity - a place to belong
Spirituality - Prayer – Community – Welcome



Church website: <http://www.trinity-urc.org.uk>

MAY 2017

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The next edition of Trinity Times will be published on 28th May All contributions should be submitted by Sunday 21st May.



<http://www.trinity-urc.org.uk>

Pastoral letter

Dear friends,

A very happy Easter to you! The chocolate eggs may have been eaten and the Easter bunny costumes put away for another year, but within the church calendar the Easter season continues for forty days culminating with Ascension Day on 25 May (and then leading onto to Pentecost and the celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit on 4 June). The Easter good news of Christ risen and alive is so important that we need time to celebrate and reflect on it.

The forty days of Lent are balanced with the forty days of Easter, connecting to the verse in the Acts of the Apostles: 'After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.' (Acts 1.3) Christ makes himself known as alive in many different ways but his focus continues to be the kingdom of God. That kingdom is one of justice and peace, of inclusion and compassion, a kingdom where the oppressed are freed, the spiritually blind have their eyes opened and the broken have their wounds bound.

Luke ends his gospel with Jesus returning to God – lifted up into heaven – but of course Luke knows that his story continues, this time through his followers and the work of His Spirit among them. The 'ascension', whatever we make of that term, is not some sad departure (Jesus waving goodbye from a cloud!) but the culmination of Jesus' life – as he is released from the limits of flesh and blood. Luke describes how Jesus continues his work – the work of God's kingdom – in his second book 'the Acts of the Apostles.' That is just one volume; thousands more could be written of Christ's work down the centuries in the many lives transformed by his living presence and loving Spirit. As Brian Wren wrote in his great hymn:

*Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love and praise*

What is our part in the latest volume of that story? I have three months away from day to day ministry to reflect on this for myself and I hope you will also find some spaces in the next few months to consider what God is calling Trinity Church to do and be as an instrument of his grace. A good starting point is the 24/7 day of prayer Trinity is taking part in on 5/6 May so do take part in that if you can. May the risen Christ walk with us, as we follow his way today.



News of the Church Family

Not included in this version

This month we would like to wish
A Happy Birthday to

**Sarah E (13th)
Janet R (14th)**

**Hannah H (15th)
Kay E (15th)**

Marian D (15th)

and Best Wishes to

**Sarah & Simon (6th)
Kate & Alan Y (21st)
Rebecca and Neil C (25th)**

on celebrating their
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
with love from all at Trinity

Kate

Worship at Trinity

Sunday Worship at 10.30 am (with activities for children):

- 7 May Worship and Communion led by Rev Alan Kirkcaldy
- 14 May Morning Worship led by Rev John Shaw
- 21 May Morning Worship led by Pete Montague
- 28 May Morning Worship led by Cores End Worship Team

Worship is followed by refreshments to which all are welcome

PENTECOST WORSHIP

We have a special service (with Holy Communion) on Sunday 4 June at 10.30 am to celebrate Pentecost – the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church – to be led by Revd Gwen Collins (Trinity’s minister between 2007 and 2013). Worship will be followed by refreshments and then a picnic on the Rye.

Every morning URC Daily Devotions offer a short Bible reading, reflection, and prayer to help shine Christ’s light in our daily lives.

These are written by a team of over 100 writers of different places and perspectives from around the URC.

You can receive Daily Devotion by email by signing up at devotions.urc.org.uk



What's on this month . . .

Wed 3rd	Trinity prayers	9:30 am - 10:00 am
	Trinity Elders meeting	8:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Fri 5th	24/7 Prayer for Wycombe	
Sat 6th	Saturday Café	11:30 am - 1:30 pm
	Chiltern Group Annual Event at Trinity Slough	12 noon
	(lunch and afternoon workshops with Lucy Berry on worship and poetry, and Alan Yates with "Meet the Moderator")	
Sun 14th	Traidcraft stall	Noon - 12:30 pm
	<i>(start of Christian Aid Week)</i>	
	Prayer Circle for Healing	4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Tues 16th	Wycombe Youth for Christ Prayer Event	4:15 pm - 6:45 pm
	Church meeting	8:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Wed 17th	Trinity Prayers	9:30 am - 10:00 am
	Worship planning meeting	8:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Sat 20th	URC Big Day Out at Warwick Castle	
	Saturday Café	11:30 am - 1:30 pm

. . . and later

Sun 4th June	Church picnic on The Rye following service (hirers & users warmly invited)
Sat 24th June	Synod Day on "Re-imagining Church", 10-3 at Welwyn Garden City URC
Mon 14th Aug	Coffee morning at Cores End with Andrew Potter talking about the Bethesda Eye Hospital in Parakou, Benin, 10.30-12 noon
Sun 3rd Sept	Afternoon Walk starting and ending at Cores End Church, followed by tea and worship
Tue 12th Sept	Celebrating Women's Ministry service (7.30 pm)
Sun 17th Sept	Shared Harvest lunch after the service

What's on . . . this month

Trinity Bookworms

Our next meeting is on Wednesday May 3rd, at 2p.m, hostess Joan Smith. We shall be discussing "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" by Stieg Larsson.

Coffee & Chat

The group will next meet on Tuesday 23 May at 10.30am at the home of Lesley B. The topic of chat is still a secret!!

Tuesday Meeting

All meetings in LSR at 2.30pm.

Tuesday May 2 nd	May Day customs and memories.
Tuesday May 9 th	Breakfast on the Beach (St. John 21vv1-17)
Tuesday May 16 th	Christian Aid.
Tuesday May 23 rd	Hymn Quiz.
Tuesday May 30 th	Favourite Places.

Regular May events

Every **Sunday** where possible

- Prayer ministry after the service

Every **Tuesday**

- Movers and Shakers Chinese Style(light exercise, a talk or activity and lunch) 10 am – 1 pm
- The Tuesday Meeting (small, friendly fellowship group) 2.30 - 4.30 pm

Every **Thursday**

- Pilates well-being class 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
- Choir Practice (church choir practises Sunday's hymns) 8.00 pm

Every **Friday**

- Movers and Shakers, Caribbean style (light exercise, a talk or activity and lunch) 10 am – 1 pm

To find out more about any activities held at Trinity, please talk to the minister or church secretary

Cores End Church

Children's Easter Fun Day

21 children attended the fun day on Saturday 8 April and had a very enjoyable time. As well as lots of crafts, games and cooking the children decorated a scroll with pictures and symbols linked to Easter. They also enjoyed the story about Palm Sunday (told from the donkey's perspective).

Lent Meetings, Holy Week and Easter

A good number of people attended the Lent discussion evenings. This included members of St Mark's Parish Church, the Community Church and Roman Catholic church. The meetings were much appreciated. During Holy Week members shared a lunch and informal communion on Maundy Thursday. Worship on Good Friday was followed by a walk of witness (that ended at St Mark's with coffee and hot cross buns). The church was decorated beautifully for Easter day and the cross of flowers was taken outside to adorn the outside cross – an Easter witness to passers-by.

Work on the building

Work is almost complete, re-plastering and redecorating the back of the church, following on from the work in that area on the roof. The next project is a refurbishment of the toilets

Thinking about the 250th anniversary

2018 marks the 250th anniversary of the founding of the church and the elders and members are beginning to think of ways to celebrate this and raise the profile of the church within the local community. Ideas for special events and services are already taking shape.



Funds raised from Macmillan Coffee Morning

The Macmillan coffee morning hosted by Sue Thorne on Saturday 8th April, together with some funds raised on the following day), raised £153.60.

Not included in this version

Not included in this version



July Church Meeting

Please note that the July church meeting has been changed from Tuesday 16th July and **will now be on Tuesday 8th August at 8 pm.**

Minister's Sabbatical (20 April – 20 July 2017)

Every ten years URC ministers are encouraged to go on a three month sabbatical – a time of refreshment, reflection and study. Cover is being provided while Terry is away. In relation to any church or pastoral matters please contact in the first place our Church Secretary, Kate Yates (or any of the elders). Where the need is for an ordained minister they can then refer you to one of our local URC ministers. Terry's first service after the sabbatical is at Cores End on 23 July and you are warmly invited to come to the bring and share lunch there that Sunday at 12.30 pm

Focus on Prayer in May

Midweek Prayers

These are held at 9.30 am on Wednesdays in church (30 – 40 minutes of prayer together). There will be prayers this month on 3rd and 17th May.

Prayer Ministry

We will be bringing guidelines on this ministry to our next Church Meeting.

Prayer Circle

This group will next meet on at 4 pm on 14 May. The circle is committed to pray regularly for people in need. If you would like to join the group (or have prayer requests) contact Audrey Richardson.

Prayer Pattern for May

Our weekly pattern of prayer (praying for members and church groups) during May is as follows (with wider concerns in capitals):

7 May John Standfield (and Joy) and their pastoral group

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HIGH WYCOMBE

14 May Margaret Lewis (and Abigail Lokko) and their pastoral group

WORK OF CHRISTIAN AID

21 May Marian Mole (and Marie Winning) and their pastoral group

CHRISTIAN WITNESS TO THE TOWN

28 May Brownies, Guides, Junior Church and Links

MUSLIM COMMUNITY (Ramadan begins on 27 May)

Prayer requests can be added to the list at the Prayer Table in the sanctuary.

Trypraying

Thank you to everyone who took part in the *trypraying* campaign. It was good to see posters and banners on churches across the town. There was a strong sense of unity and purpose as Christians from many different churches gathered for the *Trypraying* Celebration at St Peter's Church Loudwater on 9 April.

24/7 Day of Prayer for Wycombe on 5 May

We need your help covering this day in prayer. There will be a rota to sign up for an hour over the 24 hours. See Marian Mole for more details.

Thy Kingdom come

Join the global wave of prayer between 25 May and 4 June. More information on the website **www.thykingdomcome.global**



A dramatic musical narrative that tells the
Extraordinary story of the Kindertransport

Music by Carl Davis CBE and words by Hiawyn Oram
with the women's choir and
children of Maidenhead Synagogue

Accompanied by the composer

17 & 18 May 2017 at 19.30
20 May 2017 at 16.00 and 19.00

Duration 45 minutes

Grenfell Lodge, Ray Park Road, Maidenhead SL6 8QX
Admission by ticket only. Contact Barbara Grossman:
01628 541017, 07855 801937 or
projects.maidenheadsynagogue@gmail.com

Christian Aid Week 2017

Sixty years ago, a generation of Christians decided they would not stand by whilst people suffered in refugee camps amidst the aftermath of the Second World War. Inspired by the teaching of Jesus Christ, they could not sit back while their neighbours suffered. They shared Jesus' outrage over injustice and were prepared to do something about it.

That dedication and generosity led to the creation of Christian Aid Week, which today unites 20,000 churches across the country that come together to achieve incredible things to continue to support our global neighbours in need, who are suffering through no fault of their own.

Today, tens of millions of people – fathers, mothers and children - across the globe are still fleeing their homes, and making dangerous journeys in search of safety. Christian Aid is not turning its back now, and continues to support refugees around the world, who are fleeing their homes due to conflict, war and disaster.

While the majority of today's refugees seek sanctuary in poor countries, in 2015 some one million people crossed into Europe. With borders in Europe now closed, thousands of desperate refugees are finding themselves stranded in countries including Greece and Serbia – and in need of urgent help.

Nejebbar, from Afghanistan, fled her homeland after the Taliban announced they would kill anyone who worked for the government, like her husband Noor. They eventually sought refuge in Greece with their children, after a treacherous journey across the Mediterranean in a small rubber dinghy. The young family have left their home, family and friends behind, and now live with no certainty on their future, especially that of their children.

With the help of you, our supporters, Christian Aid and its global partners continue to provide support for refugees, like Nejebbar and Noor, with essentials including, food, shelter and job skills training, as well as advocating for policies to protect them and help them on the ground.

You can help to change the lives of refugees fleeing conflict and crisis this Christian Aid Week by donating online at www.caweek.org calling 08080 006 006, or texting 'GIVE' to 70040 to give £5.

LIGHTHOUSE HIGH WYCOMBE & CRESSEX – 2017 **CRAFT COLLECTING LIST**

Small Paper Plates (not polystyrene) (**LOTS ARE REQUIRED**)
Toilet Rolls/ Kitchen Rolls/ Cling Film /Foil Film Tubes
(**LOTS AND LOTS REQUIRED**)
Packets of Rice
Corrugated Cardboard / Boxes (please flattened for storage)
(**LOTS ARE REQUIRED**)
Plastic Milk Bottle Tops (**LOTS AND LOTS REQUIRED**)
Wool – Yellow and Black only required
Old Newspapers Brown Envelopes
Clear Drinks Bottles (at least 1 litre)
Old CDs / DVDs
Pony Beads Feathers (any colour)
Plastic Spoons String
Orange and Yellow Paper
Jam Jar Lids and Plastic Trays

***MONETARY DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME, AS THIS GOES
TOWARDS THE BASIC EQUIPMENT WE NEED IF YOU ARE UNABLE
TO HELP WITH THE COLLECTING ABOVE.***

COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS

Please put in the Collection box by 17th June; **please note** that after this date we may still need certain items to be collected – we can then see what we need urgently

OR contact:

Yvonne Trigg, Lighthouse High Wycombe
Yvonne Trigg (01494 474519)
yvonne_trigg@hotmail.com

THANK YOU!

STOP THE TRAFFIK – how you could help trafficked people today

Human trafficking is the world's fastest growing global crime and is one of the largest sources of income for organised crime. Profits are high and risks are low. It constitutes a global marketplace in which people are the product and everyone has a price tag. It is based on an international conveyer belt of transactions and exchange, with sophisticated trade routes and communication networks. Those who are trafficked are often invisible, always powerless, and are put to work.

Human trafficking is the recruitment or movement of a person by deception or coercion for the purpose of exploitation. People are bought and sold for:

1. Sexual Exploitation
2. Forced Labour
3. Street Crime & Begging
4. Domestic Servitude
5. Drug Cultivation & Trade
6. Human Organ Harvesting & Trade
7. Debt Bondage
8. Illegal Adoption
9. Warfare and Conflict
10. Forced Marriage

Millions more people find themselves trafficked into various forms of slavery today than were enslaved centuries ago. Many people who are trafficked or enslaved are not able to attract attention to themselves or cry out without putting themselves into increased danger. This makes it even more important that we “pay attention and act accordingly” to the signs that something is wrong.

Significant signs:

Is the person lacking in self-esteem or do they seem anxious or fearful?

Does the person act as if instructed by another? There may be control over their movement.

Is there any evidence to suggest deception or coercion may be taking place?

Is the person in possession of their legal documents? They may be held by somebody else.

Does the person seem to be bonded by debt or is money deducted from their salary?

Do they have any injuries that may be the result of controlling measures?

Have there been any threats against the individual or their family members?

Is the person distrustful of authorities?

If you are concerned by some of these signs in your community or area, contact the police, local social services or the modern slavery helpline: 0800 0121 700

Or, download The STOP APP – a confidential phone app where data is collated with other grass-roots, street-level data collected through the STOP APP along with world leading analytics, to develop intelligence-led initiatives that will prevent trafficking and protect vulnerable people.



ZIMBABWE Christian Aid regional co-ordinator for the Isle of Man, Louise Whitelegg, travelled across Zimbabwe in December on a self-funded trip to see for herself several of the projects funded by the charity and the Manx government's International Development Committee. Here she tells a little of the story of the Tonga people.

Traditionally the Tonga people were settled along the banks of the Kariba River surviving on the fertile soil as subsistence farmers. In 1958, the river was dammed so, consequently, the Tonga people lost their traditional homes and were forced to migrate. Many left the area but others were forced to move north, further inland. Families were given plots of land, an acre for a homestead and a couple of acres for their farms. Their homes consist of small round mud huts with thatched roofs. The area is extremely arid. It currently takes 40 minutes of pumping the well to raise water, and after two years of drought all the river beds are dry. Levels of poverty are grave.

Infrastructure is virtually non-existent and standards of education are far below an acceptable level. With a population of an estimated 200,000 people there are 80 primary school and 40 secondary schools. The whole area currently receives grain and seed from the World Food Programme and the Zimbabwe government's food aid programme. In Binga, as the families have been allocated their land, there are no villages as such. So families face 5-40km journeys on foot to the nearest shop/school/clinic.

Binga has an estimated 6,400 children and young people with multiple disabilities including cerebral palsy and speech and language impairments. They are usually unable to manage their daily lives independently and have no exposure to formal learning, lack relevant health education and encounter stigma and lack of understanding.

Getting general medical assistance is difficult too in an area with such high poverty. Bhekimpilo, an 11-year-old child broke his leg playing football, which is such a normal thing for a child his age to do. But as there was no way to get him any medical attention he developed sepsis. Although the leg eventually healed naturally, it left him with severe trouble walking.

Christian Aid's partner has been working with children with disabilities for the last two years on a Comic Relief-funded project. Children, with disabilities, were often hidden from view as many believed that witchcraft and curses were the cause of the child's ailment. Working with the Christian Aid partner has broken down many of these stigmas and encouraged integration. Louise had many interesting conversations with the parents and asked what their hopes were for the future.

"It is not only one of the most impoverished places I have ever seen but also the most socially isolated. But I did not see apathy or despair. I saw grit and determination in the most desperate of circumstances."

Used with permission



Chiltern Local Area Group Thames North Synod

An Invitation to the:

**Annual Gathering
Saturday 6 May 2017
at Trinity URC, Slough SL1 2JA**

**You're
Invited!**

**Following the Annual Meeting (10.30 – 12 noon),
all people connected with the churches in the group are
invited to come for lunch and to join in the afternoon
activities.**

12.30pm Lunch

1.30 – 2.45 Group Sessions

- a) Worship - practical examples of interactive and inclusive worship, especially using poetry led by Revd Lucy Berry
- b) Meet the Moderator – a chance to hear about Mr Alan Yates' first year as Moderator of the URC.
- c) There will be an Activity Area for all ages to dip into.

2.45 pm Tea Break

3.15 pm – 4.00pm Closing Worship led by Revd Leonora Jagessar Visser t'Hooff, preacher Mr Alan Yates.

**Come
and
join us!**

To help with catering -

RSVP to the Group Secretary, Revd Bridget Powell
bridget.powell@cheshamurc.org.uk
01494 784786
by 30 April 2017

Love books? Love book clubs? Welcome to Bible Book Club, helping you read the Bible with your friends – one book at a time.

Our helpful guides will give handy background information including tips, discussion questions and some hints for handling those tricky sections. You just need to pick a book, get your friends on board, and get reading!

There are several sections on the website, each with some useful information:

- How long will it take?
- Genre
- Inspiring quote(s)?
- Anything tricky?
- About the author
- About the times
- What kind of book is it?
- How is it structured?
- Words you may want to check
- Look out for...
- What could this mean for me?
- Discussion group questions

A note from Kate: Having looked at the Bible Book Club it occurred to me that it could be a good follow-up from the Bible Course for many of us ...

Prayers for May

Eternal God, Heavenly Father, your children bow before you with awe and wonder that you welcome them into your holy presence. Forgive their human failings and fill them with your love. They thank you for the world you have given them to supply their physical needs. As scientists reveal more of its marvellous intricacies may they be inspired to cherish it more faithfully as good stewards. Feed their imaginations and minds with the fruit of the Holy Spirit so that they may reflect your love and care to the world around them. In Jesus' name,

Amen

Lord Jesus you taught your first disciples to build their lives on the rock, not the shifting sand. Today the rocks on which people rely are crumbling around them: peace is overwhelmed by war; trust is undermined by treachery; care for others has been overcome by fear of violence; justice has often become transformed to injustice and many ordinary folk feel neglected and forgotten by those in power. The cry is for change in all its uncertainty. Lord, we pray for your church in the midst of all this turmoil, itself feeling the pressures of change. Make its proclamation and living of your message the rock on which all can depend whatever happens around them. We pray in your name, Lord Jesus, "the Way, the Truth, the Life"


Amen

Dear Lord, at this time of elections and electioneering we remember those who are seeking election to office either locally or nationally. We pray that they may not make promises which they know they cannot keep and that they may be fully aware of the responsibility they are seeking so that they will serve with honesty and integrity for the good of all.

Amen .

Who's who

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Guiding Units (all sections) guides@trinity-urc.org.uk	01494 522965

Church contact number
 01494 520365 (answer phone)